

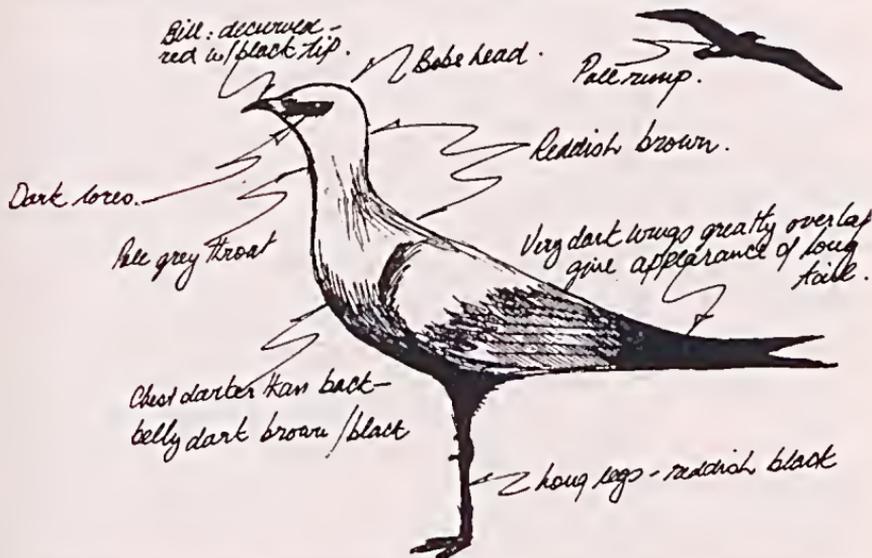
bill than the nominate race. Wing length given by Witherby *et al.* for nominate *nilotica* (300-337 mm) is considerably greater than in the Lawley River specimen.

It is possible that Asian Gull-billed Terns frequently visit the sheltered tidal waters of Kimberley and Northern Territory during the southern summer. Eastern Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo longipennis*) and White-winged Black Terns (*Sterna leucoptera*), both summer migrants from the Northern Hemisphere, were collected during the same biological survey of Admiralty Gulf and its hinterland in October 1976.

—R. E. JOHNSTONE, Western Australian Museum.

**Australian Pratincole at Lake Mason.**—On November 12, 1975, about 1620 hours, I saw two Australian Pratincoles (*Stiltia isabella*) on a bare stony wash at the eastern end of the air-strip at Lake Mason, approximately 55 km north of Sandstone. One of the birds ran for a distance of about 20 m with its head turned at an angle of 90° to its body, then braked sharply with the aid of its wings to capture a large grasshopper. The grasshopper was struck on the ground 10-12 times before being swallowed.

The birds showed no alarm but stood quietly, occasionally bobbing their heads. They took flight when an approach was made at 20 m or so.



The accompanying annotated sketch was made from my field notes.

—C. P. S. de REBEIRA, Balceata.

#### **A Survey of Breeding Seabirds on Mistaken Island, Western Australia.**

On September 23, 1976 a survey of breeding seabirds was carried out on Mistaken (or Rabbit) Island, King George Sound, W.A. The survey occurred during a visit from 1330 to 1630 hours by Dr I. Abbott, my wife and myself and Mr. Cliff Meredith who kindly provided the dinghy and rowed the party the short distance involved.

The island is about 10 ha of which about 10 per cent is exposed rock or rock with very shallow soil covering. The remaining area has good soil depth for burrowing seabirds and is well vegetated with bushes up to some four metres. The presence of many rabbits was apparent from the scratchings, droppings and warrens; one was sighted.

Ninety-four burrows were searched. Little Penguins, *Endyptula minor*, at various stages of breeding or preparation were found in 34 and one